

Minutes
Human Services Commission
Thursday, March 27, 2003
5:00 P.M.
Paiute Neighborhood Center – Motorola Room 3
6535 E. Osborn
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Present: Chairwoman Fausel, Commissioners Broshar, Coudroglou and Resnick

Staff Present: Connie James, Kathy Breen, Vicki French, John Larrivee and Mary Kay Rieke

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fausel called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 13, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Broshar moved for approval of the March 13, 2003 meeting minutes; Commissioner Coudroglou seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Don Penfield, Community Services Advisor, presented additional information on the development of the Human Services element of the proposed Facilities Master Plan. This included benchmark survey data and census-based demographic criteria for identification of community social services needs.

Commissioner Broshar asked how Community Services defines poverty. Mr. Penfield said that the two criteria are age (65 or older) and the number of people in a household. Commissioner Broshar asked about agencies that use income as a guideline to the poverty threshold. Mr. Penfield said yes, those guidelines might be used as well as census information. Ms. James added that the Section 8 income guidelines come from Housing and Urban Development (HUD); an example is 1 person level is 18,600 per year, based on the Maricopa County median income.

Commissioner Resnick asked why, when indicating the utilization rate, is the percentage for general social services 23% and for social services used by seniors the rate is 72%. Mr. Penfield said that those percentages were compiled from public input, personal interviews and an extensive telephone survey. The results from those that responded are that there was a low awareness of social services, which may be because of the relatively low utilization rate. Mr. Penfield added that there is a certain population that needs our social services, but the broader population doesn't. In fact, Mr. Penfield, in speaking with Rita Koppinger at Vista del Camino, discovered that following the events of 9/11, the people coming for social service assistance, those from the middle and upper middle class, had never been to Vista before. Commissioner Resnick asked why so few people know about the social services offered in Scottsdale. Ms. James stated that many times people might participate in a social service program, but not even know it. For example, they may be involved in one of our after school programs, but not think of it as a social service. Further, as social services for seniors primarily take place from our senior centers and the centers are more visible, it follows that the rate would be higher due to visibility.

Commissioner Coudroglou asked how Human Services defines social need, for a definition of poverty in itself does not give us a picture unless we define social needs and start from there. She added that perhaps that is why the senior rate is higher, because they have the time to seek our services. Mr. Penfield said that was a good comment. He added that when the survey document was crafted, it was hard to get the right idea across to respondents.

He added that there are many indicators used to define what the needs are in a community and they would only be using a few key indicators to determine the social need target areas. He added that if the

commission wanted to add one or two other indicators that would help in identifying these target areas to please contact him.

Chairwoman Fausel asked if page one of the report, which discusses the history of the Human Services Department, could include more history as to why the department was developed. For example, she suggested discussing the first three years of Vista del Camino. She added that in 1976 many engineers and professionals had moved from the Midwest to Arizona, and during that period of economic downturn began utilizing the services at Vista. As a point of reference it clearly illustrates how social services came to be in Scottsdale. Although Vista was designed for the Yaqui Indian community, many other citizens obtained services there. Mr. Penfield noted that the City Council had a recent discussion about the homeless situation in Scottsdale and would be informed of the East Valley Needs Assessment sometime in the future. Mr. Penfield indicated that he was striving for the Community Services Facilities Master Plan to serve as another tool in helping provide services in our community.

Chairwoman Fausel added that the spike in service requests from 1976 and into the '80's, quantified to the council at that time that the city needed to be vested in social services. Mr. Penfield agreed, adding that this survey can serve as a tool to not only determine facility needs for social services, but also for requesting additional funding. Chairwoman Fausel also added that hopefully the plan would also justify modernizing Vista.

Commissioner Broshar asked if the consultant was paid for. Mr. Penfield said yes that the consultant is being paid as the study continues. The goal is to have the study completed by the end of June. He added that he would be returning to the commission in May with a final draft of the plan.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) WITH THE SCOTTSDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vicki French, Human Services Manager – Youth and Family Services, provided information on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Scottsdale School District. This IGA provides drug and alcohol prevention services in all 32 schools. The agreement is an item that will go to the City Council on June 16.

Commissioner Resnick asked if Human Services Staff have we been satisfied with SPI's performance over the years. Ms. French said yes, and that she receives a report that outlines the services provided each month. SPI reports, by school, the services that they provide.

Commissioner Broshar asked who has the \$253,978 and Ms. French said that amount was the city's budget. She added that other monies come from the school district, parent committees and grants; the city only provides 1/3 of the funding. She added that, as SPI's 5-year contract is up next year, the school district would do an RFP process in the spring of 2004.

Chairwoman Fausel asked why SPI was awarded the contract on a continuing basis. Ms. French said that in 1999 a 1-year contract was awarded, with an option to renew, each year, for 4 more years.

Chairwoman Fausel asked who were the prevention specialists at the schools. Ms. French said that they are school counselors, teachers, assistant principals, or behavioral specialists, and that they are usually school district employees. Chairwoman Fausel said that it would be timely to assess the knowledge level of these significant people about what goes on in their schools and that one of these people can serve as a the resource person. Chairwoman Fausel also said that some of the programs offered by SPI are also offered by a number of youth and family organizations in the community, and through funding already provided by the Human Services Department, but that they cannot do these programs in the schools because SPI is already there. Chairwoman Fausel asked to see some sort of a school survey conducted in the district, using models that are available, in the next year and that the City Council's approval of a certain agency in the school would be with the proviso that there were favorable results from the survey. She added that the funding year should be when the survey is conducted.

Ms. French stated that there is a SPI counselor that is assigned to each school and that person is responsible for determining what the needs are in each of the schools. She added that she received the school survey from Chairwoman Fausel and has talked to Ms. James Connie about modifying it to do a survey in the schools. She stated that there are other resources out there and it would be great to give other agencies the opportunity.

Commissioner Coudroglou asked what was the size of the actual population. Ms. French said that the services are available to every elementary, middle and high school student, of which there are currently 29,000. Commissioner Coudroglou asked what Youth and Family Services do for prevention. Ms. French said that the purpose of SPI is prevention training either through teaching character, education on the dangers of alcohol, etc., and informational forums. They also provide early intervention if someone is caught using drugs or alcohol on campus. SPI's mission is to provide some early prevention. Commissioner Coudroglou said even so, they are still dealing with tertiary prevention and asked if there was a way to develop something that educates youth before they deal with these issues. Ms. French stated yes, programs are provided as early as kindergarten. Chairwoman Fausel added that there are many programs that provide free prevention programs.

Commissioner Resnick moved to send the request to City Council to approve the monies to fund SPI for the coming year with the proviso that during that funding year a survey be conducted, with school district approval, by Human Services or Youth and Family staff to ascertain the effectiveness of the program. Commissioner Broshar seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

EAST VALLEY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Connie James, Human Services Director, briefed the commission on the East Valley Needs Assessment. Scottsdale will participate, along with the cities of Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa United Way, Valley of the Sun United Way and the Tempe Community Council.

Commissioner Resnick asked where the Community Forum would be held and Ms. James said Horizon Park.

Chairwoman Fausel asked if Commission members are invited to the Forum and Ms. James said yes.

Commissioner Coudroglou said it was important to advertise the forum well, to make more people know what Human Services is doing.

Commissioner Coudroglou moved to approve Scottsdale's participation in the East Valley Needs Assessment; Commissioner Broshar seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Commissioner Broshar asked about the Which Way Scottsdale report and should that be presented at a commission meeting. Ms. James said that City Manager, Jan Dolan has called a meeting of all Directors and General Managers to discuss that report and Ms. James will inform commission of the outcome of that meeting.

Ms. James discussed the City Council study session on Monday, March 24 and how she briefed the council on homeless issues based upon the request from Councilwoman Lukas, who had been receiving calls from citizens regarding the homeless in their neighborhoods. Ms. James stated that Human Services, Community Neighborhood Resources Department, the Police Department and Charlene Moran Flaherty from Maricopa Association of Governments presented to the council.

Ms. James said that the next meeting will be on April 10, 2003 in the City Hall Kiva and at that time volunteers will be recognized. She also stated that at the April 24, 2002 meeting staff would present a retrospective on that last 30 years at Vista del Camino. Ms. James also discussed the Community Forum, which will be held on April 25, 2003 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Horizon Park.

Commissioner Broshar added that on April 14, 2003 the City Council would vote on the proposed CDBG/HOME/General/Scottsdale Cares and Endowment Funding.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Fausel made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chairwoman Coudroglou asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Broshar moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Bossert, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James
Director, Human Services